

## Recommended Components of a Model Drought Management Ordinance

- I. Authority to declare drought or emergency conditions and impose water conservation measures
  - Outlines who (County Administrator, Board of Supervisors, Town Manager, PSA, etc.) will authorize and initiate prudent drought management actions in a locality and/or service area as outlined in the ordinance and the local or regional drought response and contingency plan.
- II. Conditions for drought declaration and potential water shortage
  - a. Stage I – drought watch
  - b. Stage II – drought warning
  - c. Stage III – drought emergency
  - ✓ each stage should list those indicators/parameters that trigger each stage or reference applicable section(s) in the local or regional drought response and contingency plan, and
  - ✓ each stage should specify voluntary and mandatory conservation measures or reference applicable section(s) in the local or regional drought response and contingency plan.
- III. Additional Measures (*recommended*)
  - If measures outlined in section II above are insufficient to reduce demand and preserve sufficient supplies of water for citizens, this section outlines additional measures that may be implemented during critical periods.
- IV. Violation and Penalties
  - Specifically summarizes those actions and penalties that will be imposed upon violators of the drought management ordinance.
- V. Appeals (*recommended*) *The key here is the designation of an appeals process to ensure that the ordinance is not subject to challenge on the grounds that it does not include a due process provision. The establishment of a “new” body is not necessary.*
  - Upon declaration of the Drought Warning Stage, establishment of an appeals review board to review applications for exemptions and institutes power to approve, modify, or revoke such determinations.
- VI. Public Notice and Duration of Restrictions
  - Indicates that the above restrictions shall become effective upon their being printed in any newspaper of general circulation within the locality, and/or broadcast upon any radio or television station serving the locality. This section also states that the Drought Watch, Drought Warning, and Drought Emergency Stage restrictions shall remain in effect until the designated authority (outlined in section I) determines that a water emergency in the locality no longer exists.
- VII. Repeal of Other Locality Ordinances (*This is discretionary based on the local attorney’s preference. This is also temporary--only in force as long as the restrictions are in place.*)
  - Repeals all other locality ordinances inconsistent with this ordinance.